IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly amend page 1, insert -- GRANT REFERENCE This application was in part supported from funding of the National Institute of Health through research grant R01HL50420 and Grant RR-00036 to the Washington University General Clinical Research Center, and finally Grant RR-00954 to the Washington University Mass Spectrometry Resource -- before CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION.

Kindly amend page 5, line 12, insert commas before and after "therefore".

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend claim 1 as follows:

1 (Amended). A composition <u>in a solid, but water-soluble</u> form for reducing cholesterol a[d] <u>b</u>sorption, comprising:

an aqueous homogenous micellar mix of

a plant sterol and

an alkaline or alkaline earth metal salt of \underline{a} reaction product of lactic acid and a fatty acid

wherein the salt is [as] an emulsifier [which] and
wherein the mix has been dried to a finely_divided_ water_
soluble powder;

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